

**Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation**

Five new infested trees have been found in the southeast section of Linden since July 24, resulting in the need to expand the Middlesex/Union quarantine zone. Because the trees have all had egg sites but no exit holes, the zone expansion will be by 1/8 of a mile. The expansion does not take the quarantine zone into any new municipalities.

One of the new finds, a red maple tree in Rosehill Cemetery, has been removed because the 25 egg sites were old, dating to 2004, and there was no apparent risk of dispersing beetles by cutting down the tree. The remaining four trees have new egg sites and so will be removed after the first hard frost to avoid sending any adult beetles into other surrounding trees.

Increased survey work is ongoing to determine the number of nearby high-risk host trees that will be removed as a result of the newly found infested trees. It is already known that about 60 high-risk host trees in the cemetery will need to be removed as a result of the find there.

The last three USDA Forest Service smokejumpers from Montana and Oregon finished the survey work they had begun on June 24 and returned to their home states on July 26 for the 2005 forest fire season.

Contractor work crews from Ceres Environmental Services, Brooklyn Park, Minn., have finished tub grinding all highly exposed host trees. Crews are grinding all the remaining stumps and are repairing any damaged fences, sidewalks, sheds, etc. in the Rahway and Linden contract areas.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the stump grinding process to address concerns of homeowners and the contractor to ensure operations continue to run smoothly until completion.